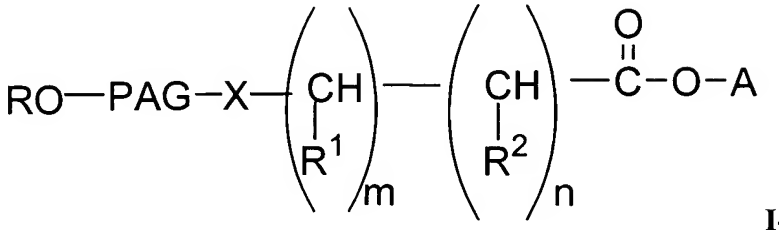
In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula

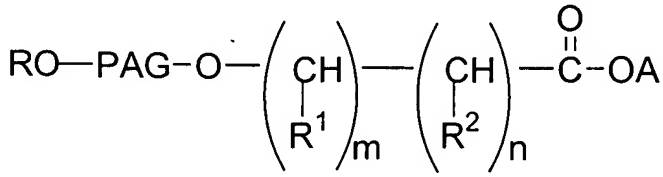


I-A

wherein R, R_1 and R_2 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is -O- or -NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; n is an integer of from 0 to 1; m is an integer of from 4 to 8; and A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester

or hydrolyzable esters thereof wherein A is hydrogen, wherein said PAG residue has a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 40,000 Daltons when X is O.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1 having the formula



I-A1

wherein A, R, PAG, R^1, R^2, m and n are as above.

3. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein A is hydrogen.

4. (Original) The compound of claim 3 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 4 wherein R is methyl.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 5 wherein n is 0 and m is 4.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 5 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 6 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 2 wherein A is an activated leaving group.

10. (Original) The compound of claim 9 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

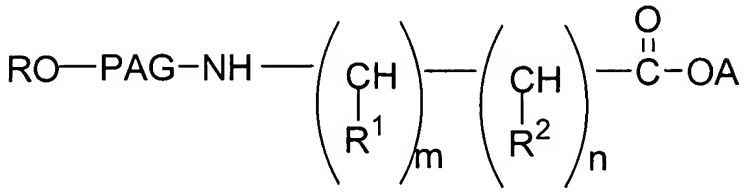
11. (Original) The compound of claim 9 wherein R is methyl.

12. (Original) The compound of claim 11 wherein n is 0 and m is 4.

13. (Original) The compound of claim 12 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 13 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

15. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein said compound has the formula



I-A2

wherein A, R, PAG, R,[1] $R^{2,}$ m and n are as above.

16. (Original) The compound of claim 15 wherein A is hydrogen.

17. (Original) The compound of claim 16 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

18. (Original) The compound of claim 17 wherein R is methyl.

19. (Original) The compound of claim 18 wherein n is 0 and m is 4.

20. (Original) The compound of claim 19 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

21. (Original) The compound of claim 20 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

22. (Original) The compound of claim 18 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

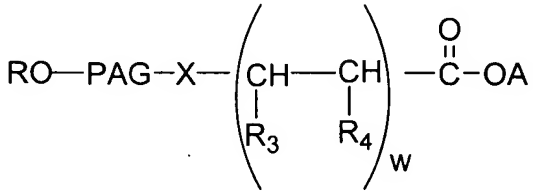
23. (Original) The compound of claim 22 wherein R is methyl.

24. (Original) The compound of claim 23 wherein n is 0 and m is 4.

25. (Original) The compound of claim 24 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

26. (Original) The compound of claim 25 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

27. (Original) The compound of formula

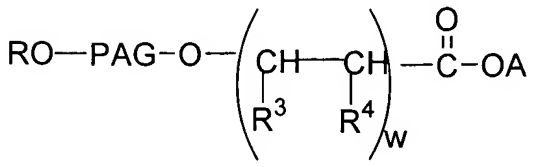


I-B

wherein R is hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is–O- or - NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons ; w is an integer of from 1 to 3; and one of R_3 and R_4 is lower alkyl and the other is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen forms an ester;

or hydrolyzable esters thereof wherein A is hydrogen.

28. (Original) The compound of claim 27 wherein said compound is



I-B1

wherein A, R, PAG, R^3, R^4, w and n are as above.

29. (Original) The compound of claim 28 wherein A is hydrogen.

30. (Original) The compound of claim 29 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

31. (Original) The compound of claim 30 wherein R is methyl.

32. (Original) The compound of claim 31 wherein w is 1.

33. (Original) The compound of claim 32 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

34. (Original) The compound of claim 33 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

35. (Original) The compound of claim 28 wherein A is an activated leaving group.

36. (Original) The compound of claim 35 wherein PAG is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

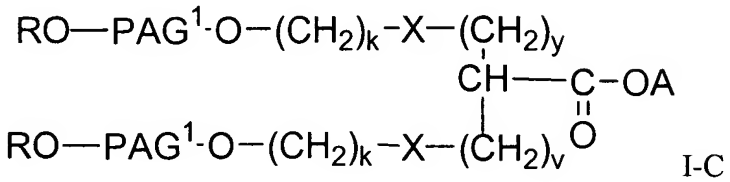
37. (Original) The compound of claim 36 wherein R is methyl.

38. (Original) The compound of claim 37 wherein w is 1.

39. (Original) The compound of claim 38 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 40,000.

40. (Original) The compound of claim 39 wherein PEG has a molecular weight of from 20,000 to about 35,000.

41. (Original) The compound of formula

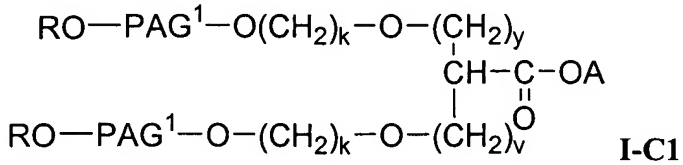


I-C

wherein R is hydrogen or lower alkyl, X is -O- or -NH-, A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester, PAG^1 is a divalent residue of a polyalkylene glycol resulting from the removal of both of the terminal hydroxy groups, said residue having a molecular weight of from about 500 to about 25,000 Daltons, y is an integer from 0 to 3 and v is an integer from 1 to 3; and k is an integer from 1 to 2;

or hydrolyzable esters thereof wherein A is hydrogen.

42. (Original) The compound of claim 41 wherein said compound has the formula



I-C1

wherein R, PAG^1, A v, y and k are all as above.

43. (Original) The compound of claim 42 wherein A is hydrogen.

44. (Original) The compound of claim 43 wherein PAG^1 is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

45. (Original) The compound of claim 42 wherein each PAG^1 residue has a molecular weight of 500 to 15,000.

46. (Original) The compound of claim 42 wherein A is a leaving group.

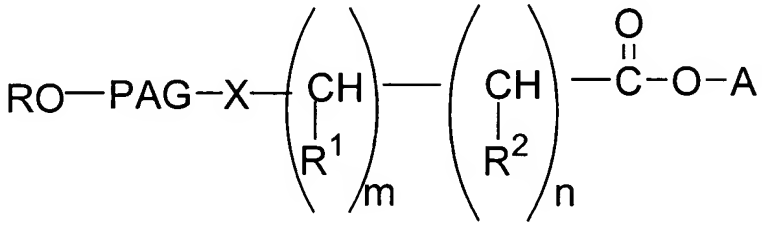
47. (Original) The compound of claim 46 wherein said leaving group is N-hydroxysuccinimidyl.

48. (Original) The compound of claim 47 wherein PAG^1 is PEG, a divalent polyethylene glycol residue resulting from the removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups.

49. (Original) The compound of claim 48 wherein R is methyl.

50. (Original) The compound of claim 49 wherein each PEG residue has a molecular weight of from 500 to 10,000.

51. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an activated ester of the formula:



I-A

wherein R, R_1 and R_2 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is -O- or -NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; n is an integer of from 0 to 1; m is an integer of from 4 to 8; and A is a hydrogen or an activated

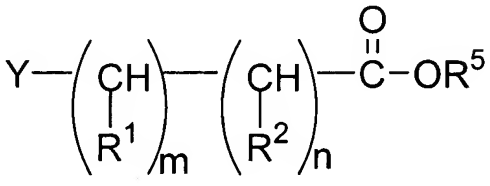
leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester

comprising, condensing a compound of the formula:

V

wherein R, and PAG are as above, and V is –OH or $–NH_2$,

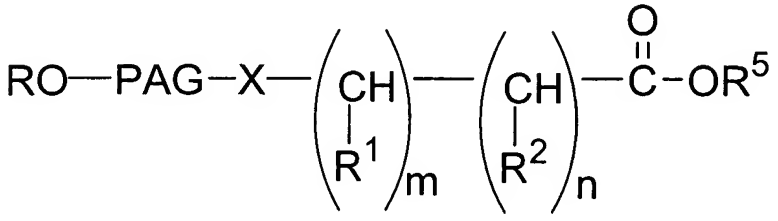
with the compound of the formula:



V1

wherein R^5 forms a hydrolyzable ester protecting group and Y is halide and R^1, R^2, m, and n, are as above,

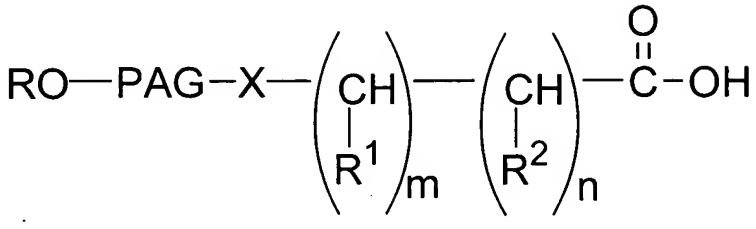
to produce an ester of the formula



VIII

wherein R, PAG, X, R^1, R^2, R^5, m and n are as above,

hydrolyzing said ester to form a free acid of the formula:



IX

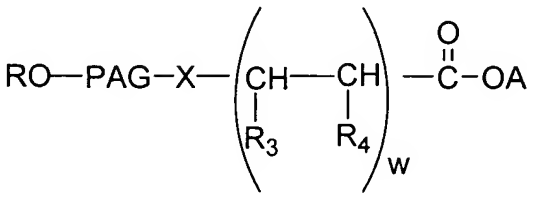
wherein R, PAG, X, R^1, R^2, m and n are as above,

and reacting said free acid with a halide of an activated leaving group in the presence of a coupling agent to produce said activated ester,

and wherein said PAG residue has a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 40,000 Daltons when X is O.

52. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 51 wherein said leaving group is a N-hydroxysuccinimidyl group ~~58~~.

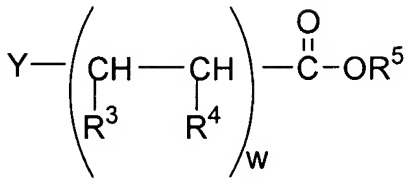
53. (Original) A process for producing an activated ester of the formula:



I-B

wherein R is hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is –O- or-NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkyleneglycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; w is an integer of from 1 to 3; and one of R_3 and R_4 is lower alkyl and the other is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester

comprising, condensing a compound of the formula:



XX

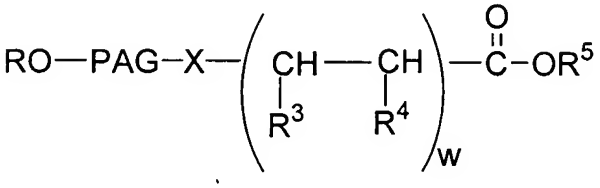
wherein w, Y, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as above, Y is halide and R^5 forms a hydrolyzable protecting group

with a compound of the formula:

V

wherein R, and PAG are as above, V is –OH or $–NH_2$,

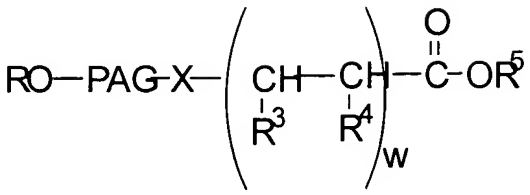
to produce an ester of the formula:



XXI

wherein w, R, PAG, X, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as above

hydrolyzing said ester to form a free acid of the formula:



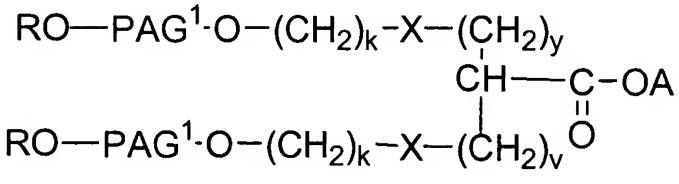
XXII

wherein R, PAG, X, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as above,

and reacting said free acid with a halide of an activated leaving group in the presence of a coupling agent to produce said activated ester.

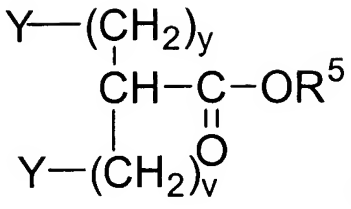
54. (Original) The process of claim 53 wherein said leaving group is a N-hydroxysuccinimidyl group.

55. (Original) A process for producing an activated ester of the formula:



I-C

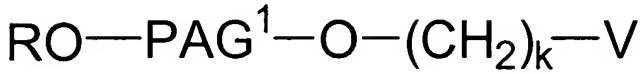
wherein R is hydrogen or lower alkyl, X is –O- or –NH, A is a hydrogen or an activated leaving group which when taken together with its attached oxygen atom forms an ester, PAG^1 is a divalent residue of a polyalkylene glycol resulting from the removal of both of the terminal hydroxy groups, said residue having a molecular weight of from about 500 to about 25,000 Daltons, y is an integer from 0 to 3 and v is an integer from 1 to 3; and k is an integer from 1 to 2, comprising, condensing a compound of the formula:



XXXV

wherein Y is halide, y and v are as above, and R^5 forms a hydrolyzable ester protecting group

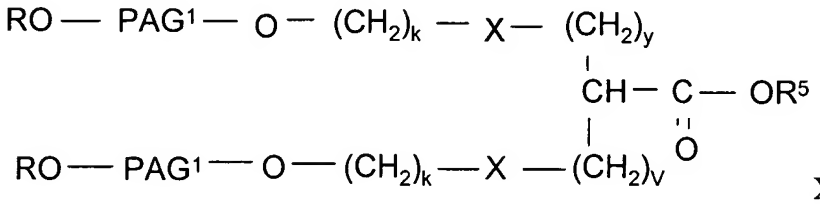
with a compound of the formula



XXXVI

wherein R, PAG^1 and k are as above, V is –OH or $–NH_2$,

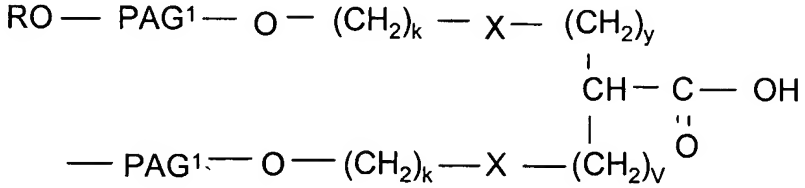
to produce an ester of the formula:



XXVII

wherein R, PAG^1, X, R^5, k, v and y are as above,

hydrolyzing said ester to form a free acid of the formula:

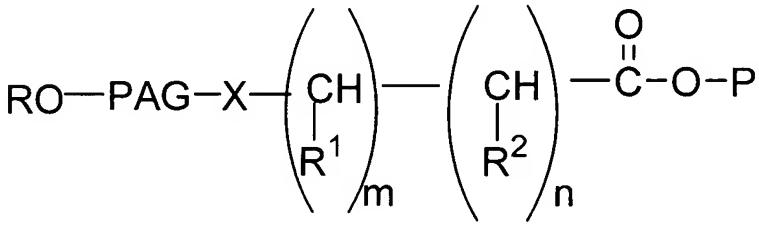


wherein R, PAG^1, X, k, v and y are as above,

and reacting said free acid with a halide of an activated leaving group in the presence of a coupling agent to produce said activated ester.

56. (Original) The process of claim 55 wherein said leaving group is N-hydroxysuccinimidyl.

57. (Original) A conjugate of the formula



I-A

wherein P is a residue of a biopharmaceutical having a terminal hydroxy group wherein the terminal hydroxy group is removed, R, R_1 and R_2 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is -O- or -NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; n is an integer of from 0 to 1; and m is an integer of from 4 to 8.

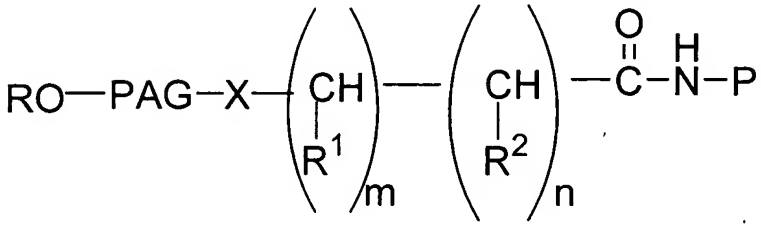
58. (Original) The conjugate of claim 57 wherein P is a glycoside.

59. (Original) The conjugate of claim 58 wherein P is a residue of AZT.

60. (Original) The conjugate of claim 57 wherein X is –0-.

61. (Original) The conjugate of claim 60 wherein PAG is a polyethylene glycol residue having a molecular weight of 10,000 to 15, 000.

62. (Original) A conjugate of the formula



I-A

wherein P is a residue of a biopharmaceutical having a terminal hydroxy group wherein the terminal hydroxy group is removed, R, R_1 and R_2 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl; X is -O- or -NH-; PAG is a divalent residue of polyalkylene glycol resulting from removal of both of its terminal hydroxy groups, which residue has a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 50,000 Daltons; n is an integer of from 0 to 1; and m is an integer of from 4 to 8.

63. (Original) The conjugate of claim 62 wherein P is a residue of a protein or polypeptide.

64. (Original) The conjugate of claim 63 wherein X is –0-.

65. (Original) The conjugate of claim 64 wherein PAG is a polyethylene glycol residue having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to 15,000.

66. (Original) The conjugate of claim 63 wherein P is the polypeptide T-20 having a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1.

67. (Original) The conjugate of claim 64 wherein R is methyl.